



Change by Proxy



dystopia

anime

adventure

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Chapter 1 by Phantim

My world was upside down.

Just a few days ago I had been hunting him. This man they all said was a criminal. Now I am on airship flying across the wastelands with him. Every second my old home and old life gets further away. Was it worth it, was anything still left out here? All I could see was ash and ruins. I looked up to him piloting the ship, a stern but kind look on his face. How could they think he had killed all those people?

Looking down at the badge on my belt, I take it off and look at it one last time. Then I throw it off the bough of our quickly moving airship. I know I can never go back now.

Chapter 2 by Comp Som "CS" Anichi



"C'mon, kid. We gotta get moving." he says, but not unkindly. He knows what it's like. To be in my place, I mean.

I nod and slide the window shut. I move towards the seat beside him and buckled up. We still had a long way to go.

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"So, where to next?" I put my legs up on the dashboard and whipped out a small paperback, one of the only remaining possessions I had managed to let go. This book was the only thing left behind from...

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"We just hav' ta head further north." He opened the thrusters and rev-ed the engines.

"Mhmm, 'k." I didn't look up.

He must have been worried since he glanced sideways towards me. But he reached down and ruffled my head. "Cheer up, kid. It's going to be a long ride to M. Ridot. So just sit still and enjoy the view."

"Heh," I sighed bitterly. What view? I just kept quiet and looked out at the barren wastelands. The sky was grey and almost matched the color of the ground, and the debris that covered it. It looked as bleak as my feelings.

I pocketed my book and opened the compartment. Inside laid a map and a headset. I equipped the headset and leaned back on my chair, setting to be comfortable for the ride.

Chapter 3 by Kagabati



After a few hours of flying, I started to doze off in my chair. Outside the ship, darkness slowly closed around the sky as the sun sank into the horizon, twilight enveloping the sky. In the last few moments before my eyes closed in the pursuit of sleep, the ship suddenly rocked as there was a loud explosion. I shot up in my seat as red lights and alarms sounded. The feeling of dread started pooling in my stomach as I looked around and saw no one else with me.

Chapter 4 by LethalPianist



I have been betrayed. The damned criminal had left as bait for the Empire. Admittedly, I should have known better than to trust the man in the first place.

"What are you doing there, just lounging about!?" An unexpected voice boomed from the intercom. "Man the Cannons!"

I cracked a smile. I haven't been betrayed after all. I ran towards the nearest flak cannon on the air ship, the dangling metal platforms squeaking in protest. I didn't look down, but If I had, I

would've seen that we were hundreds of feet high. The walkways swayed in the intense wind, and I would've paused to enjoy the winding canyons and the majestic mountains.

That is, if we weren't under

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I made my way to the futuristic looking flak cannon. It boasted a triple steam engine pneumatics in addition to the gunpowder shells. I sighted the enemy airship. I quickly calculated the trajectory and wind speed. I fired, and the enemy airship went up in flames.

I was the ace at the airship academy. Jackson Grubs, the sharpshooter.

Chapter 5 by Phantim



Yeah, it's a terrible name for a girl. Maybe that's what made me tough. What made me want to become a cop. Our world was luxurious, sure. But no matter how fancy your house is, your clothes are, no matter how full your pockets are... people can still ruin everything. Cut you down, make you feel like you aren't worthy. I decided they didn't matter. I felt worthy to myself. I felt it when I graduated top of my class, I felt it when I solved my first case, and I feel it now breaking the law to save this man... Vincent.

"Hey Vince! We okay? How is the ship?" I call out to my new companion.

"One sec!" he hollered down. Then after a minute he drops down next to me. "Looks good! We took a few hits to the auxiliary sails, but as long as the primaries hold, we should be fine." he explained.

"Hard to believe they came looking for us way out here..." I say.

"Would you really blame them? Everyone in that city is dying Jackie. They are dying and they think I am the only one who could save them, or at least the one they can blame... Still I don't think that was a REIV ship. Probably just some bandits or pirates. Must mean we are getting close to M. Ridot." he says with a half smile.

Chapter 6 by Auntie Em



The ship is rocked by another crash.

"Vince, I think we have real company!" I say, struggling to stay on my feet.

"Go figure!"

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Then we both hear a noise
hear something

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is, or rather, we don't

"The engine!" we both scream.

Sure enough, the engine was out, hit by god knows what. Even worse, the ground was getting dangerously close.

"Hang on if you want to live Jackie!" Vince yelled

"Sure thi..." I was cut off as I was hurdled to the ground, along with everything on the ship.

We had crashed. But not just anywhere.

"Welcome to M. Ridot." Vince groaned.

Chapter 7 by Phantim



I looked around. Definitely not what I had expected. Reiv, where I am from was a modern metropolis... even now as it slowly rotted and died it was a sight to behold. This, M. Ridot was nothing like our huge city. Run down, dirty... I felt like I was watching an old cowboy flick, not entering a city in the year 3,281. Still, it was comforting to know it existed. When Vincent had told me about it, I was more than skeptical. So few places exist out in the wastelands.

"Looks, uh... great," I say.

"Haha," Vince Chuckles, "If they don't kill us on sight, I think you will really enjoy it!"

Suddenly gunshots rang out through M. Ridot.

Chapter 8 by Alexander



Vince pushed me to the side and told me to stay put. He got up and waited for more gunshots before he ran through some trees. The gunshots stopped for a bit and then out of no where they started again and this time I heard people screaming.

Out of instinct I got up and ran towards the noise. When I got there I spotted the woman that were shooting. There were a few houses on fire but luckily there weren't any people inside. I searched the area for Vince but... the group of woman began to shoot again at a family.

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"P-please don't hurt the children. Just take me. I-i'll do a-anyt-thing." A woman said just as she was shot. I peeked behind the tree and saw what was left of the family, a little girl about the age of 3 and an older boy who was probably about 14. The little girl was crying for her mom and the boy was trying to pull them away from the dead body. The group of women walked over to the two children and, the one I assumed was the leader, leaned down and pointed her gun to the little girls head.

Without thinking again I ran out from behind the tree I was hiding behind and shouted, "STOP! Leave those children alone!" Just as I said that the woman stood up straight and slowly walked over to me.

"What are you going to do about it?" She asked as she smiled, causing her red lips to spread. I stared right back into the woman's eyes and continued to keep my mouth shut. The woman let out a little laugh and then said, "That's what I thought." She turned back around and began to walk over to the children again. Before she walked far I picked up the nearest rock and threw it at the back of her head.

I reached for my gun and realized it wasn't in the holster anymore. The group of women were now pointing their guns at me and their leader turned around and just smiled. "What? Did you bring rocks to a gun fight?" She asked rudely.

"No, she brought me!" Yelled Vince as he made he way out of the woods. "You stay away from those children and Jackie! If you have anything to say then say it to me."

the end

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